

CHAPTER NO. 643

SENATE BILL NO. 3380

By Herron

Substituted for: House Bill No. 3273

By Fitzhugh, Matheny, DuBois

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 13, Part 1, relative to the recording of military discharge documents in the office of the county register.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 13, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

§ 8-13-118.

(a) If a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, or any other person, personally appears and presents to the county register a military discharge for recording, before accepting such document for recording, the county register shall give to such person a written notice substantially as follows:

NOTICE

A MILITARY DISCHARGE RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY REGISTER IS NOT A CONFIDENTIAL RECORD. IT IS A PUBLIC RECORD AND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THE DISCHARGE CAN BE EXAMINED BY ANYONE.

A military discharge may be recorded with all or a portion of the veteran's Social Security identification number redacted, but this is not required for recording. However, if the discharge is altered, the United States government may not accept it as a valid document for purposes of approving military benefits to the veteran or the veteran's family. A county register will not cause a military discharge record recorded in the office of the county register to be viewed over the Internet, except through a subscription service approved by the county register.

If after giving the person offering the document the opportunity to read the notice described in this subsection, such person continues to desire to have the military discharge recorded, the county register may record it. The register may record a military discharge received by mail without giving the notice described in this subsection.

(b) A county register may record a military discharge of a veteran of the United States Armed Forces that is received with or without the redaction of all or a portion of the veteran's Social Security identification number. For a military discharge to be eligible for recording, the document must be an original or a copy authenticated as a true copy by the appropriate armed service of the United States or the United States Department of Defense or agency thereof. Additionally, the county register may make a copy of a military discharge eligible for recording, allow the person tendering the military discharge to make redactions on the copy made by the county register, and record the copy with the redactions.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 1, 2006


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 12th day of May 2006


PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR